



I-215 AND 5400 SOUTH MOBILITY STUDY PURPOSE AND NEED FACT SHEET

After evaluating public comments, public agency input and traffic study results, the I-215 and 5400 South Mobility Study team has developed a Purpose and Need Statement. This statement describes the need for transportation improvements in the study area and explains why the team should examine potential improvements to address the need. The study team includes the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the City of Taylorsville.

PURPOSE AND NEED SUMMARY

The I-215 and 5400 South Mobility Study began because previous studies found a need for improvements in the study area and the Wasatch Front Regional Council recommended an interchange at I-215 and 5400 South. After reviewing traffic study results and public comments the team confirmed that the transportation problem is congestion around the I-215 interchanges at 4700 South and Redwood Road.

STUDY PROCESS

If federal funding is available and before UDOT begins work on a construction project, the agency completes a study in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The study team will produce an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that helps UDOT balance engineering and transportation needs with social, economic and natural environmental factors.

PHASE 1



PHASE 2 (IF INITIATED)



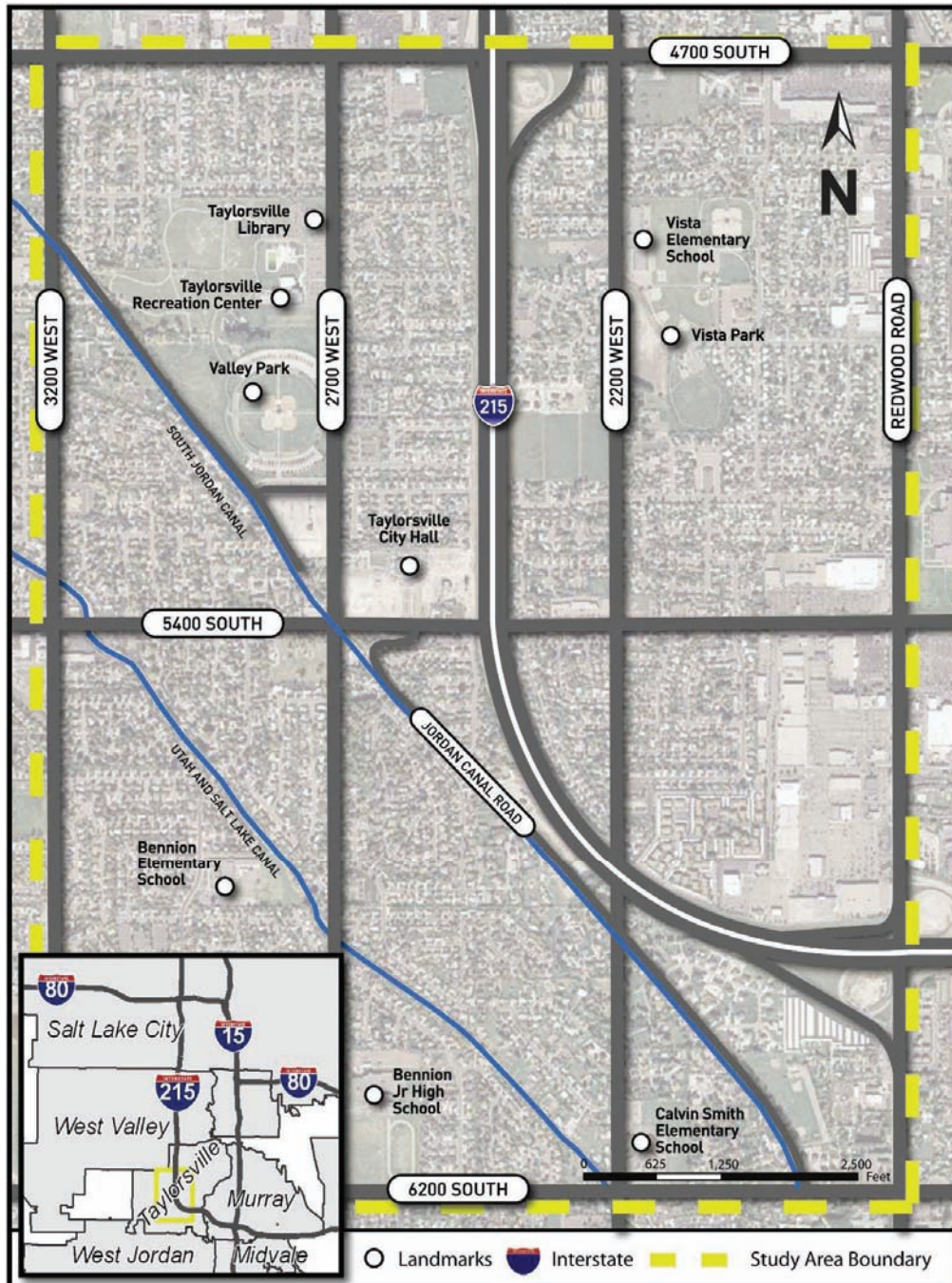
STUDY BACKGROUND

In 2008, the Wasatch Front Regional Council's (WFRC) Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) recommended an interchange at I-215 and 5400 South and the Salt Lake County East-West Study identified a need for general east-west and north-south improvements in the study area. These two actions spurred the passing of House Bill 185 in the 2009 Utah State Legislative Session, which funded the I-215 and 5400 South Mobility Study.



STUDY AREA

The study area entails approximately three square miles centered around the crossing of I-215 and 5400 South in the City of Taylorsville. Its boundaries are Redwood Road, 3200 West, 4700 South and 6200 South. The area contains dense residential areas and business and commercial zones that generate substantial local traffic.

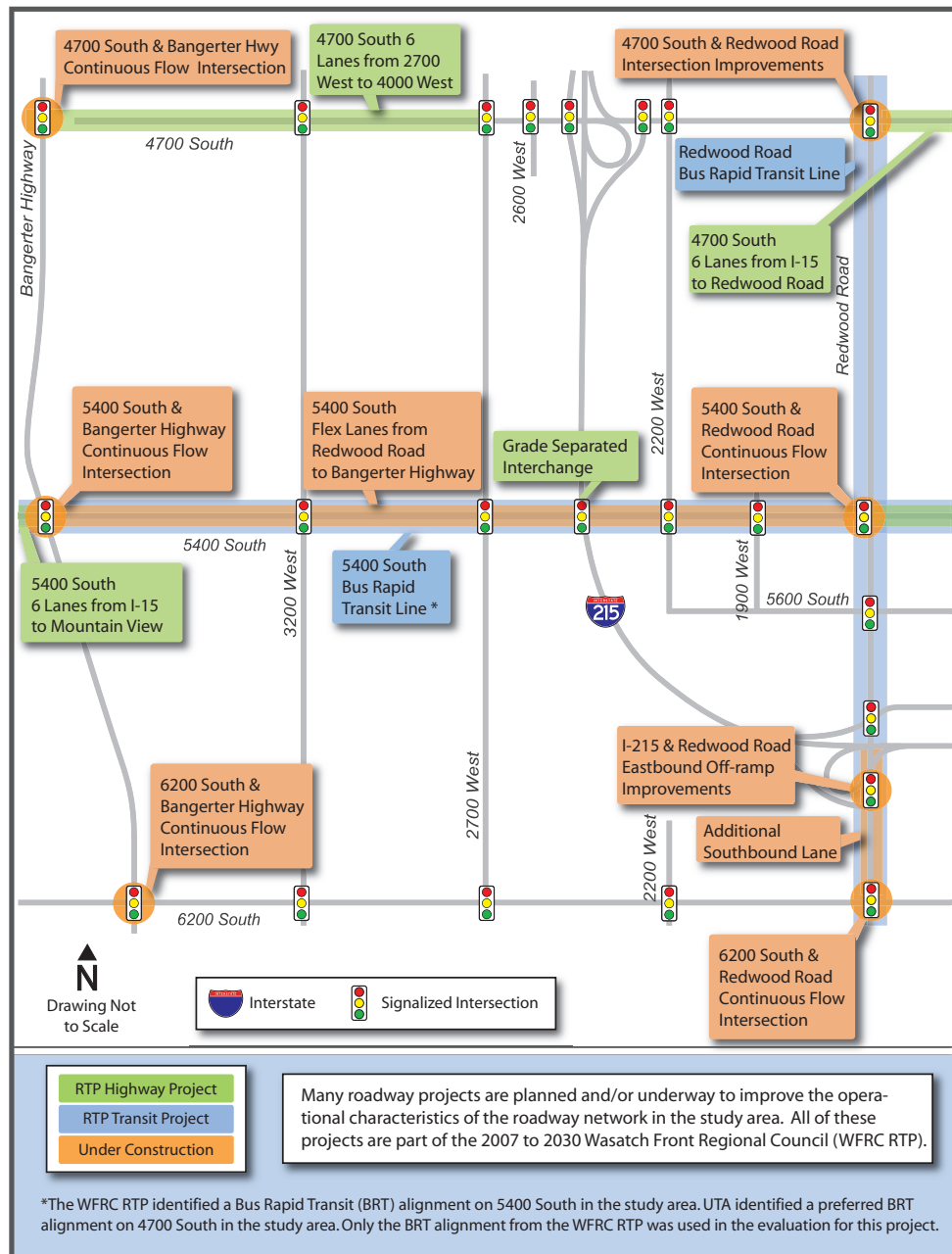


Source: Utah Department of Transportation 2010

PLANNED PROJECTS IN THE VICINITY OF THE STUDY AREA

A number of major transportation improvement projects are already underway in and just outside the study area, with more planned to begin between 2010 and 2030.

The I-215 and 5400 South Mobility Study will recommend possible transportation improvements designed to complement the projects already planned or in progress and further reduce traffic congestion in the areas surrounding the I-215 interchanges at 4700 South and Redwood Road.



NEED FOR IMPROVEMENTS

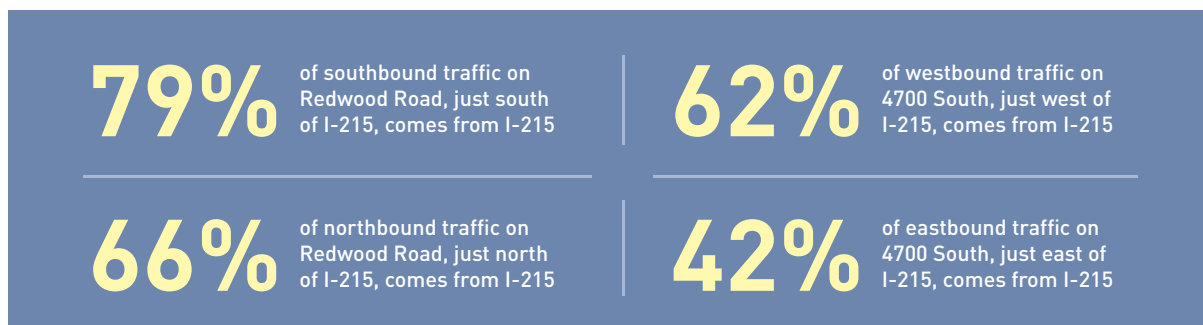
The study team found that population and employment growth as well as limited capacity to access I-215 has led to growing transportation problems in the study area and that most of the congestion in the study area surrounds the I-215 interchanges at 4700 South and Redwood Road. Projections suggest that, unless something is done beyond the already approved upgrades (see Planned Projects map), the study area will become increasingly congested and continue to decline in effectiveness and operational performance.

According to the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, the population of Salt Lake County has increased by 42 percent from 1980-2010 and is projected to increase another 35 percent by the year 2040. It is also projected that much of this steady growth will take place in the southwestern part of the valley, where the most undeveloped land is located. This will fuel substantial employment growth in the study area.

Both population and employment growth has contributed to an increase in the number of miles traveled in the study area. Traffic modeling projects that the number of miles traveled daily will increase by 40 percent from 2005 to 2040. The modeling also shows substantial increases in traffic that uses the 4700 South and Redwood Road interchanges to access I-215 and enter the valley's freeway network.

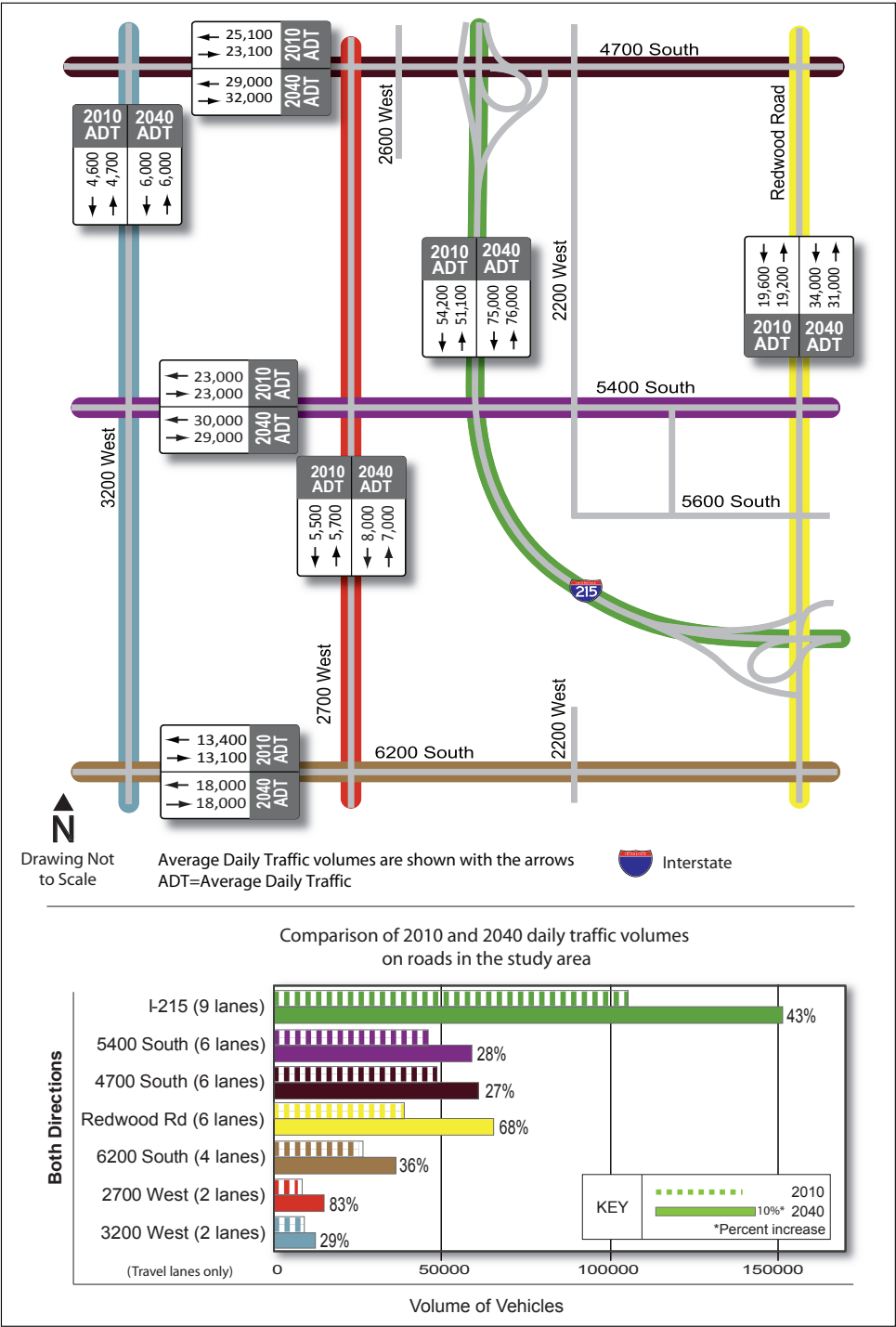
PURPOSE OF IMPROVEMENTS

The purpose of improvements would be to increase the capacity to access I-215 in the study area. To do this, the study team found that any improvements in the study area would need to reduce congestion on 4700 South and Redwood Road around the I-215 interchanges. Growing traffic volumes on 4700 South and Redwood Road has led to the increasingly poor operational performance of the interchange ramps and surrounding signalized intersections.



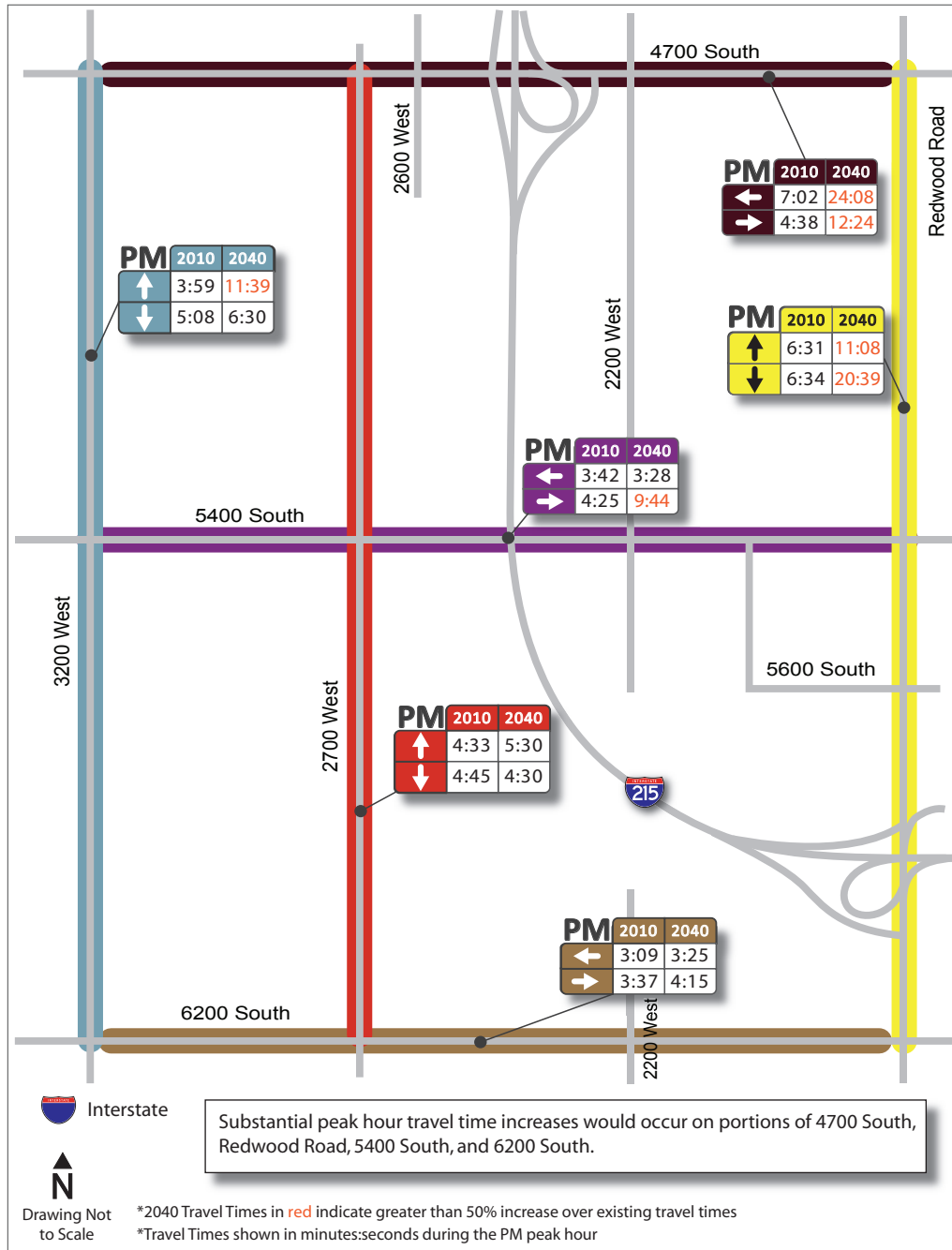
INCREASE IN CONGESTION IN THE STUDY AREA

During peak drive times, the majority of traffic in the vicinity of the I-215 interchanges at Redwood Road and 4700 South is entering or exiting I-215. If nothing more is done to accommodate these I-215 travelers, traffic on Redwood Road will jump by 68 percent and traffic on 4700 South will increase by 27 percent by the year 2040. This increased demand will exceed the capacity of the roadways accessing I-215.



EXISTING AND PROJECTED TRAVEL TIMES

Without improvements beyond what is already planned, the hours of vehicle delay in the study area during afternoon drive time will increase by 162 percent.



PUBLIC INPUT TO THE PURPOSE AND NEED

Between March and May 2010, the study team solicited feedback from residents, businesses and public agencies to help establish if there is purpose and need for improvements and to ask what improvements should be considered. The team requested feedback through the study website, letters, postcards, an e-newsletter, flyers, posters, a legal notice and a public scoping meeting. The team received 71 comments that helped it better understand traffic problems in the area and produce transportation improvement alternatives.

RESULTS

The current and projected population and employment growth in the study area shows a need for transportation improvements beyond what is already planned. If not addressed, these two factors will lead to longer travel times, increased congestion and increased travel delay especially around the I-215 interchanges on 4700 South and Redwood Road.



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